

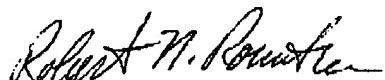
REMARKS

Claims 1-31 are pending. Claims 1, 3, 5-6, 8-10, 12-14, 16-17, and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Gerten et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,760,319). Depending claims 2 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Claims 7, 11, 15, 18, and 20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Claim 5 is currently amended. New claims 21-31 are added to further define the present invention.

Applicants have included a declaration under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 to show conception prior to Gerten et al. (July 5, 2000), reasonable diligence, and constructive reduction to practice. Thus, applicants respectfully submit that Gerten et al. is not a reference with respect to the instant application under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). Applicants acknowledge the rejection of depending claims 2 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) but believe these rejections are moot in view of the foregoing discussion.

In view of the foregoing, applicants respectfully request reconsideration of claims 1-20 and allowance of claims 1-31. If the Examiner finds any issue that is unresolved, please call applicants' attorney by dialing the telephone number printed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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